AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second full paragraph at page 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows the structure between RB and LB of a rd29A-DREB1A vector that comprises nosP-NPTII-nosT and rd29A-DREB1A-nosT, as well as restriction sites, HindIII and NotI.

Please delete the last paragraph on page 9 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Fig. 2-1 shows 1 to 1 alignment, common sequences and homology % at the nucleotide sequence level between DREB1A as a standard and each one of DREB1B to DREB1F. DREB1A (SEQ ID NO: 33); DREB1B (SEQ ID NO: 34); DREB1C (SEQ ID NO: 35); DREB1D (SEQ ID NO: 36); DREB1E (SEQ ID NO: 37); DREB1F (SEQ ID NO: 38).

Please delete the sixth full paragraph on page 11 and replace it with this paragraph:

Fig. 3-1 shows 1 to 1 alignment, common sequences and homology % at the amino acid sequence level between DREB1A as a standard and each one of DREB1B to DREB1F. DREB1A (SEQ ID NO: 39); DREB1B (SEQ ID NO: 40); DREB1C (SEQ ID NO: 41); DREB1D (SEQ ID NO: 42); DREB1E (SEQ ID NO: 43); DREB1F (SEQ ID NO: 44).

Please delete the fifth full paragraph on page 12 and replace it with this paragraph:

Fig. 4-1 shows 1 to 1 alignment, common sequences and homology % at the nucleotide sequence level between DREB2A as a standard and each one of DREB2B to DREB2H. DREB2A (SEQ ID NO: 45); DREB2B (SEQ ID NO: 46); DREB2C (SEQ ID NO: 47); DREB2D (SEQ ID NO: 48); DREB2E (SEQ ID NO: 49); DREB2F (SEQ ID NO: 50); DREB2G (SEQ ID NO: 51); DREB2H (SEQ ID NO: 52).

Please delete the seventh paragraph on page 16 and replace it with this paragraph:

Fig. 5-1 shows 1 to 1 alignment, common sequences and homology % at the amino acid sequence level between DREB2A as a standard and each one of DREB2B to DREB2H. DREB2A (SEQ ID NO: 53); DREB2B (SEQ ID NO: 54); DREB2C (SEQ ID NO: 55); DREB2D (SEQ ID NO: 56); DREB2E (SEQ ID NO: 57); DREB2F (SEQ ID NO: 58); DREB2G (SEQ ID NO: 59); DREB2H (SEQ ID NO: 60).

Please delete the seventh full paragraph on page 18 and replace it with this paragraph:

Fig. 6 shows alignment at the nucleotide sequence level between DREB1A as a standard and each one of DREB1B to DREB1F. DREB1A (SEQ ID NO: 33); DREB1B (SEQ ID NO: 34); DREB1C (SEQ ID NO: 35); DREB1D (SEQ ID NO: 36); DREB1E (SEQ ID NO: 37); DREB1F (SEQ ID NO: 38).

Please delete the eighth full paragraph on page 18 and replace it with this paragraph:

Fig. 7-1 shows alignment at the nucleotide sequence level between DREB2A as a standard and each one of DREB2B to DREB2H (to position 518 of DREB2A). DREB2A (SEQ ID NO: 45); DREB2B (SEQ ID NO: 46); DREB2C (SEQ ID NO: 47); DREB2D (SEQ ID NO: 48); DREB2E (SEQ ID NO: 49); DREB2F (SEQ ID NO: 50); DREB2G (SEQ ID NO: 51); DREB2H (SEQ ID NO: 52).

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 18 and 19 and replace it with this paragraph:

Fig. 8 shows alignment at the amino acid sequence level between DREB1A as a standard and each one of DREB1B to DREB1F. DREB1A (SEQ ID NO: 39); DREB1B (SEQ ID NO: 40); DREB1C (SEQ ID NO: 41); DREB1D (SEQ ID NO: 42); DREB1E (SEQ ID NO: 43); DREB1F (SEQ ID NO: 44).

Please delete the first full paragraph on page 19 and replace it with this paragraph:

Fig. 9 shows alignment at the amino acid sequence level between DREB2A as a standard and each one of DREB2B to DREB2H. <u>DREB2A (SEQ ID NO: 53); DREB2B (SEQ ID NO: 54); DREB2C (SEQ ID NO: 55); DREB2D (SEQ ID NO: 56); DREB2E (SEQ ID NO: 57); DREB2F (SEQ ID NO: 58); DREB2G (SEQ ID NO: 59); DREB2H (SEQ ID NO: 60)</u>.

Please replace the second full paragraph at page 19 with this paragraph:

Fig. 10 shows photographs showing the rooting ability of non-transformants[[,]] and <u>transgenic lines,</u> lines 9 and 10, in the rooting ability test upon production with scions.

Please replace the third full paragraph at page 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 11 is a graph showing the stem lengths of non-transformants[[,]] and <u>transgenic lines,</u> lines 9 and 10, after planting.

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 22 and 23 and replace it with this paragraph:

Hence, a DNA encoding a protein that belongs to the DREB1 family and comprises an amino acid sequence having 40% or more homology with the amino acid sequence of any one of DREB1A to DREB1F can be used as the DNA of the present invention encoding a transcription factor having functions to bind to a dehydration responsive element (DRE) and activate the transcription of a gene located downstream of the DRE. Among these DNAs, in particular a DNA encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence region that shares high homology with an amino acid sequence region ranging approximately from amino acid positions 31 to 120 of DREB1A protein or with an amino acid sequence region corresponding to the amino acid sequence region ranging from amino acid positions 31 to 120 of DREB1A when the amino acid sequence of any one of DREB1B to DREB1F proteins is aligned with the amino acid sequence of DREB1A protein by the above method can be appropriately used. Specifically, such a DNA encoding a protein having the region that shares at least 60% and preferably 70% or more

homology with that of any one of DREB1A to DREB1F can be used as the DNA of the present invention encoding a transcription factor having functions to bind to a dehydration responsive element (DRE) and activate the transcription of a gene located downstream of the DRE. Furthermore, a DNA encoding a protein containing at least the above amino acid sequence region can also be used as the DNA of the present invention encoding a transcription factor having functions to bind to a dehydration responsive element (DRE) and activate the transcription of a gene located downstream of the DRE. Furthermore, among the amino acid sequences of DREB1A to DREB1F proteins, an amino acid sequence (MAARAHDVA) (SEQ ID NO: 31) ranging from positions 85 to 93 and an amino acid sequence (ALRGRSACLNF) (SEQ ID NO: 32) ranging from positions 95 to 105 of DREB1A protein are common sequences of DREB1A to DREB1F proteins. A DNA encoding a protein having the entirety of both common sequences, or a sequence derived from the common sequences by substitution, deletion, or addition of 1 or several amino acids can also be used as the DNA of the present invention encoding a transcription factor having functions to bind to a dehydration responsive element (DRE) and activate the transcription of a gene located downstream of the DRE.

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 24 and 25 and replace it with this paragraph:

Hence, a DNA encoding a protein belonging to the DREB2 family comprising an amino acid sequence having 20% or more homology with the amino acid sequence of any one of DREB2A to DREB2H can be used as the DNA of the present invention encoding a transcription factor having functions to bind to a dehydration responsive element (DRE) and activate the transcription of a gene located downstream of the DRE. Among these DNAs, in particular a DNA encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence region that shares high homology with an amino acid sequence region ranging approximately from amino acid positions 61 to 130 of DREB2A protein, or with an amino acid sequence region corresponding to the amino acid sequence region ranging from amino acid positions 61 to 130 of DREB2A when the amino acid sequence of any one of DREB2B to DREB2H proteins is aligned with the amino acid sequence

of DREB2A protein by the above method can be appropriately used. Specifically, such a DNA encoding a protein having a region that shares at least 20% and preferably 30% or more homology with that of any one of DREB2A to DREB2H can be used as the DNA of the present invention encoding a transcription factor having functions to bind to a dehydration responsive element (DRE) and activate the transcription of a gene located downstream of the DRE. Furthermore, a DNA encoding a protein containing at least the above amino acid sequence region can also be used as the DNA of the present invention encoding a transcription factor having functions to bind to a dehydration responsive element (DRE) and activate the transcription of a gene located downstream of the DRE. Furthermore, among the amino acid sequences of DREB2A to DREB2H proteins, an amino acid sequence (WGKWVAEIREP) (SEQ ID NO: 67) ranging from positions 88 to 98 of DREB2A protein is a common sequence of DREB2A to DREB2H proteins. A DNA encoding a protein having the entire common sequence region or a sequence derived from the common sequence by substitution, deletion, or addition of 1 or several amino acids can also be used as the DNA of the present invention encoding a transcription factor having functions to bind to a dehydration responsive element (DRE) and activate the transcription of a gene located downstream of the DRE.

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 26 and 27 and replace them with this paragraph:

In DREB1A, an amino acid at position 30 is A, amino acids at positions 34 to 36 are P, K, and K, respectively, amino acids at positions 38 to 40 are A, G and R, respectively, an amino acid at position 43 is F, amino acids at positions 45 to 49 are E, T, R, H, and P, respectively (SEQ ID NO: 61), amino acids at positions 51 to 53 are V, R and G, respectively, an amino acid at position 55 is R, an amino acid at position 57 is R, amino acids at positions 61 to 63 are K, W, and V, respectively, an amino acid at position 65 is E, amino acids at positions 67 to 69 are R, E, and P, respectively, an amino acid at position 74 is R, amino acids at positions 76 to 79 are W, L, G and T, respectively (SEQ ID NO: 62), an amino acid at position 82 is T, amino acids at

positions 85 to 93 are M, A, A, R, A, H, D, V, and A, respectively (SEQ ID NO: 31), amino acids at positions 96 to 106 are A, L, R, G, R, S, A, C, L, N, and F, respectively (SEQ ID NO: 32), amino acids at positions 108 to 113 are D, S, A, W, R, and L, respectively (SEQ ID NO: 63), an amino acid at position 116 is P, an amino acid at position 124 is I, an amino acid at position 128 is A, amino acids at positions 130 to 132 are E, A, and A, respectively, an amino acid at position 135 is F, amino acids at positions 186 and 187 are A and E, respectively, an amino acid at position 190 is L, an amino acid at position 194 is P, and amino acids at positions 212 to 215 are S, L, W, and S, respectively (SEQ ID NO: 64).

Please delete the last paragraph on page 27 and replace them with this paragraph:

In DREB2A, amino acids at positions 63 and 64 are K and G, respectively, amino acids at positions 68 to 71 are G, K, G, and G, respectively (SEQ ID NO: 65), an amino acid at position 72 is P, an amino acid at position 74 is N, amino acid at position 77 is C, amino acids at positions 81 to 85 are G, V, R, Θ Q, and R, respectively (SEQ ID NO: 66), amino acids at positions 87 to 97 are W, G, K, W, V, A, E, I, R, E, and P, respectively (SEQ ID NO: 67), amino acids at positions 103 to 106 are L, W, L, and G, respectively (SEQ ID NO: 68), an amino acid at position 108 is F, amino acids at positions 114 and 115 are A and A, respectively, amino acids at positions 117 to 119 are A, Y, and D, respectively, an amino acid at position 121 is A, amino acids at positions 126 and 127 are Y and G, respectively, an amino acid at position 130 is A, and amino acids at positions 132 and 133 are L and N, respectively.